ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE EXPENSES

OF THE

TOWN OF WESTFORD,

YEAR ENDING FEB. 11, 1857.

LOWELL:
DAILY COURIER STEAM PRESS, 27 CENTRAL STREET.
1857.

REPORT.

TREASURER'S OFFICE,
WESTFORD, Feb. 7, 1857.

The Committee chosen to reckon and settle with Sherman D. Fletcher, Town Treasurer, for the year ending at date, submit the following Report:—

RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasurer's hands at last settlement,		$607 51
Cash borrowed,		1875 00
" of G. W. Chandler, (tax 1855),		3 66
" of D. C. Butterfield, liquor agent, 1855–'56,		31 71
" of J. B. Fletcher, " " 1856–'57,		87 00
" Stony Brook Dividends,		30 00
" State School Fund,		68 73
" of T. P. Wright, Collector, (1855 in full),		39 60
" " " " "	(prior to Oct. 6, 1856),	2377 18
" " " " "	(prior to Dec. 6, 1856),	835 80
" " " " "	(after Dec. 6, 1856),	1700 00
" " Overseers of the Poor,		170 00
Total,		$7826 19

PAYMENTS.

To paid J. W. P. Abbot, (note),	1000 00
" " Interest on notes,	82 50
" " State Tax, 1856,	828 00
" " County Tax, 1856,	808 67
" " Overseers of the Poor,	458 00
" " School Districts,	1086 12
" " Orders,	2227 00
Balance in Treasurer's hands,	1335 90
Total,	$7826 19

Your Committee further report that the Town is indebted to the following named persons, to wit:—

Jesse Wright, note and interest,	$394 18
Sally Adams, " " "	104 08
John Osgood, " " "	309 15
Calvin Howard, " " "	311 70
Susanna Reed, " " "	157 30
Joseph Hildreth, " " "	443 02
	1719 43

Several School Districts,	$1058 27	
Master at Poor House,	305 00	
Orders outstanding,	22 67	
Incidental Claims, estimated at	125 00	
Snow bills, " "	300 00	
		1810 94
Total,		$3530 37

RESOURCES.

Balance in Treasurer's hands,	1335 90	
Five shares Stony Brook Railroad,	500 00	
Dividend accumulated on said Stock,	7 50	
Amount of Tax for 1856, uncollected but considered available,	25 00	
		1868 40
Leaving a balance against the Town of		1661 97
Amount of debt, 1856,		1438 04
Increase of Debt,		$223 93

J. W. P. ABBOTT,
NATHAN S. HAMBLIN, } Committee.
ISAAC E. DAY,

SHERMAN D. FLETCHER, Treasurer.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen of the Town of Westford, for the year ending March 2, 1857, submit the following Report:—

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES, INCLUDING TOWN OFFICER'S COMPENSATION.

S. D. Fletcher, Town Treasurer, 1855,	$12 00
Drawing School Money from State,	50
Paying State Tax,	50
Paying County Tax,	2 00
Entertainment furnished Committee to reckon with Town Treasurer,	1 50
L. Luce, Services as School Committee, 1855,	20 33
For Stationery,	75
Services as Town Clerk, 1855,	12 00
Recording sixty-three births,	12 60
" thirteen marriages,	1 30
" thirty deaths,	6 00
Making out report to Secretary of State of births, marriages and deaths,	3 00
Amos Day, work done on west burying ground, 1856,	3 00
Thomas Wilson, services as School Committee, 1855,	20 00
Stillman Clark, services as School Committee, 1855,	23 00
S. & S. D. Fletcher, goods from store,	1 22
postage,	2 20
First Parish, use of Town Hall and fuel,	34 00
use of Bell for deaths and funerals,	7 50
J. B. Fletcher, liquor agent,	87 00
J. B. Reed, attending twenty-three funerals with the hearse,	16 92
J. W. P. Abbott, committee on Abel Prescott case,	3 00
Cyrus Hamlin, building fence around the Common,	85 00
services on committee at Poor Farm,	7 00
J. J. Carter, removing nuisance from highway,	3 50
Ephraim Wright, use of Pound,	3 50
J. B. Fletcher, entertainment of town officers in November,	4 00
Geo. B. Hildreth, painting fence around the Common, and paint and oil,	60 17
Union Society, toling bell for deaths and funerals,	7 50
Edward Symmes, for 500 maps of the town,	150 00
for 500 sheets of paper for same,	27 50
measuring 678 yards gravel,	3 00
Lowell Courier Office, printing Reports and Tax Bills, 1855,	31 00
Amount carried forward,	$652 49

Amount brought forward,	$652 49
David Reed, 100 perch of stone, delivered at Poor Farm,	75 00
Abijah Reed, choping timber on Poor Farm,	3 33
Joseph Hildreth, taking invoice and making taxes, 18 days,	27 00
boarding Assessors and Stationery,	6 75
assessing two District Taxes,	3 00
paid J. W. P. Abbott, Esq., for administering oath,	25
going to see about Tadmuck Swamp Road, three times,	3 00
going to view and lay out road, on petition of Winslow Eager and E. Holt,	1 00
going to see about road at C. G. Sargent's,	1 00
services as Selectman, finding room, etc.,	10 00
distributing the Maps of the Town,	3 00
George Reed, taking invoice and making taxes, ten days,	15 00
going to see the road near E. Hutchins',	1 00
going to let out T. Swamp Road,	1 00
going to see about road near T. Horan's,	75
making two District Taxes,	3 00
ten stone posts,	7 00
ten perches of grout,	6 25
ten lbs. of iron bolts for railing,	80
four days laying wall, setting posts, and putting on the rails near C. G. Sargent's,	4 00
460 ft. of joice for rails,	7 82
T. P. Wright, posting warrants for Town Meetings, 1856,	2 00
collecting $1,700, taxes for 1856,	76 50
collecting Abel Prescott's tax, 1855,	1 59
Amos Hildreth, 2d, taking invoice and making taxes, 15 days,	22 50
making two district taxes,	3 00
hewing and putting up railing at T. Swamp,	16 00
services as Selectman,	5 00
going to view road on petition of W. Eager and E. Holt,	1 00
going to see about Tadmuck Swamp Road,	3 00
Joseph Bailey, appraising property at Poor Farm and making report of the same,	2 00
	$965 03

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Abijah Hildreth, repairing roads and bridges, 1854,	$7 63
breaking out roads, 1854–'55,	2 87
Elisha Bunce, repairing Tadmuck Swamp Road,	171 00
Benjamin A. Reed, repairing Tadmuck Swamp Road,	48 00
T. H. Hamblet, land to widen road,	2 75
Asia Nutting, repairing road near Hamblet's	14 28
Daniel Flagg, breaking out road, 1856,	4 37
Amos Hildreth, 2d, breaking out road, 1856,	26 00
Oliver Woodward, breaking out road in 1855–'56,	89 16
J. B. Reed, breaking out road, 1856–'57,	31 87
E. T. Dupee, breaking out road, 1856,	93 25
William Kittredge, mowing brush and repairing road,	29 00
G. S. Frederick, repairing road in 1855–'56,	18 00
John Cutter, breaking out road in 1855–'56,	64 29
Elias Sweetser, breaking out road, 1855,	24 37
Amount carried forward,	$626 84

Amount brought forward,		$626 84
Sylvester Hildreth, breaking out road, 1855–'56,		19 54
Ezekiel Wright, repairing road,	" "	3 55
breaking out road,	" "	24 00
Amos Leighton, " " "	" "	25 68
J. J. Carter, " " "	" "	21 62
J. B. Fletcher, " " "	" "	55 18
Amos Heywood, " " "	" "	11 74
Orin Cooledge, " " "	" "	10 37
James Hildreth, " " "	" "	28 78
James Chickering, " " "	" "	44 12
Joseph W. Keyes, " " "	" "	43 40
Samuel Blodgett mowing brush in road,		2 50
Erastus Wright, laying bank wall at C. G. Sargents,		25 00
breaking out road, 1857,		50 25
Trueworthy Keyes, breaking out road, 1856,		104 10
Liberty Keyes, " " " "		18 50
Allen R. Perham, " " " 1857,		39 00
B. V. Lyon, " " " 1856,		43 00
Total,		$1197 17

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Taxes assessed in 1855,	$21 91
" " " 1856,	46 85
	$68 76

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Orders amounting to	$458 00

SCHOOLS.

School District No. 1—127 scholars,					$211 77
" " " 2,	70	"			145 19
" " " 3,	40	"			110 15
" " " 4,	42	"			112 49
" " " 5,	51	"			123 00
" " " 6,	43	"			113 66
" " " 7,	63	"			137 02
" " " 8,	27	"			94 97
" " " 9,	30	"			98 47
" " " 10,	50	"			121 83
Scholars in 1856,	543				$1268 55
" " 1855,	561				
	— 18 decrease in 1856.				
In 1856 each scholar drew					$2 33 6-10
In 1855 " " "					2 24 9-10

SUMMARY.

Money raised for town debt and charges,	$2000 00
" " " schools,	1200 00
" " " overlayings,	188 70
Highway taxes returned unworked,	74 35
State tax,	828 00
County tax,	808 67
	$5099 72

No. of Polls, 382. Tax 57 cents on $100.

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Previous to March 3, 1856,	$287 10	
" " 2, 1857,	677 93	
	———	965 03

ROADS AND BIDGES.

Previous to March 3, 1856,	$697 00	
" " 2, 1857,	500 27	
	———	1197 27
Overseers of the Poor,		458 00
School districts,		1268 55
Abatement of taxes,		68 76
		$3957 61

The Selectmen estimate the liabilities of the Town as follows:—

Incidental Expenses,	$125 00
Snow Bills,	300 00
	425 00

JOSEPH HILDRETH,
AMOS HILDRETH, 2d,
GEORGE REED,
} Selectmen of Westford.

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The Overseers of the Poor submit the following Report for the support of the poor, from February 7, 1856, to February 7, 1857 :—

Amount of personal property at the Poor House, including farming tools, stock, &c., as by appraisal of the Committee, February 7, 1857,	$1894 98
" 7, 1856,	1661 89
Gain on Personal Property,	$233 09
Received from the income of Farm as by Willis Wilder's books :—	
For Butter, 937 lbs.,	228 90
Milk,	19 04
Calves,	70 00
Poultry,	20 41
Eggs,	13 25
Meadow hay,	30 42
Straw,	8 40
Cranberries,	32 00
Apples,	25 50
Dried apples,	3 06
Cider,	14 75
Vinegar,	5 47
Potatoes,	16 35
Beans and vegetables,	9 14
Pork and Lard,	26 06
Beef and Hide,	15 59
Tallow,	2 52
Ashes,	2 62
Boarding and entertainment,	9 50
Work done off the Farm,	7 93
Willis Wilder being absent from the Farm,	5 00
Cash in hands of overseers of last year,	34 35
drawn from the Treasury,	458 00
received of Charles H. Hildreth for support of Betsy Hildreth,	33 76
received of City of Boston, for support of Betsy Hunstable, and cost in suit of Westford vs. City of Boston,	266 00
received of town of Billerica for Charles Duren,	19 00
received of A. W. Cummings for John Mahoney	5 00
due the Overseers of the Poor,	2 09
due Willis Wilder on settlement,	92 85
	$1476 96

Payments made by Willis Wilder:—

Paid Nichols' account for goods,	$66	03
S. & S. D. Fletcher, "	26	51
J. B. Fletcher, "	27	20
for goods of others,	14	86
for grain and meal,	80	82
for four shoats,	48	98
for one cow,	40	00
for hay,	27	45
for pasturing oxen,	12	38
for meat,	18	03
for fresh fish,	2	39
for bread,		67
for medicine,	3	29
for clothing,	13	57
work by the month on the Farm,	172	36
women's work in the house,	41	28
T. P. Wright's bill for work,	14	04
Ansil Davis for mason work,	4	50
Richardson & Bunce, for grape vines,	2	83
Ephraim Wright for fixing saws,		66
for butchering,	2	00
grass seed,	7	24
seed corn and oats,	5	14
new halter and repairing harness,	4	39
brooms, tin ware and nails,	3	95
ox yoke, tools and repairs,	7	10
flour barrels,	4	29
one ladder,	3	25
shawl for Mrs. Elbridge Read,	1	75
expenses going to Lowell with Betsy Hunstable,	1	80
	$658	76

Bills paid by the Overseers,

Paid Willis Wilder,	$300	00
Town of Medford, for F. Scott,	40	15
Oren Coolidge, for grafting,	29	95
City of Boston, for James Kemp,	5	00
T. B. Smith, for boarding Charles Duren,	10	00
D. A. Dow, for medical attendance on Charles Duren,	4	00
for attendance on John Mahoney,	5	00
for attendance on Mrs. Stevens,	1	00
for attendance on Tim Callyhan,	2	00
D. C. Mead, for goods for Elbridge Reed,	1	93
Caleb White for James Kemp, year 1855,	3	00
Levi Howard for medical attendance on Charles Duren,	5	00
Daniel E. Parker, for boarding Robert Wilkinson 30 weeks,	15	00
Ephraim Wright, for coffin for Mrs. Stevens,	4	00
C. F. Keyes, for grafting.	17	66
State, for boarding Martha Elbridge,	14	00
for conveying John Mahoney to State Alms House,	4	00
Levi Snow, for digging two graves,	4	00
Amount carried forward,	$465	69

Amount brought forward,	$465	69
Joel Nourse, for advertising in New England Farmer for man and wife to take charge of Poor Farm,		75
Abbott & Brown, for services and cash paid in suit of Westford vs. City of Boston, and in suit Westford vs. Billerica,	90	61
S. D. Fletcher, treasurer,	170	00
Sam. Fletcher, 2d, services as Overseer,	5	00
" " " for going to Medford twice to see about Mrs. Scott,	5	00
" " " for carrying Eldridge Reed's family to Poor House,		75
Oren Coolidge, services as Overseer,	5	00
" " going to Acton after P. Kidder,	2	50
" " examing Records of Chelmsford,		50
Nathan S. Hamblin, services as Overseer,	5	00
" " " making out reports, 1855,	4	00
" " " going to Medford twice, about Scott,	3	00
" " " carrying Thomas Kemp to Poor House,	1	50
" " " going to see about Elbridge Read's family,	1	00
" " " going to Billerica, Chelmsford and Carlisle, to examine records respecting Charles Duren settlement,	4	50
" " " going to Chelmsford to examine records respecting Martha Elbridge,	1	50
" " " going to Monson to see about Marta Elbridge,	6	40
" " " going to see Tim. Callyhan,		50
" " " going to Lowell respecting Betsy Hunstable,	1	25
" " " time and expenses in suit Westford vs. Boston, as allowed by City of Boston,	33	25
" " " going to Boston respecting Betsy Hunstable suit,	2	50
" " " going to Lowell to settle with Abbot & Brown,	1	00
Caleb White, going to Lowell respecting Betsy Hunstable,	1	00
D. A. Dow, going after Martha Elbridge,	6	00
		$818 20
Amount paid by Willis Wilder,		658 76
		$1476 96

Statement of the expenses of the poor above the income of the farm for the year ending February 7, 1857 :—

Amount drawn from the Treasury,	$458	00
Received from Billerica,	19	00
" " Charles H. Hildreth,	33	76
" " A. W. Cummings for John Mahony,	5	00
Due Willis Wilder on settlement,	92	85
" Overseers of Poor,	2	09
Balance in hands of Overseers last year,	34	35
		645 05

Gain on personal property,	$233 09	
Due from the State,	35 00	
Received for Betsy Hunstable's board the last year,	50 00	
	———	318 09
		———
Cost of supporting poor exclusive of interest on the farm,		$326 96

NATHAN S. HAMBLIN,
OREN COOLIDGE,
SAMUEL FLETCHER, 2d,
} Overseers of the Poor.

WESTFORD, Feb. 11, 1857.